



CITY OF LONG BRANCH, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 344 BROADWAY, LONG BRANCH, NJ. 07740 97320 222-7000

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Program for Community Cats



Monmouth County SPCA TNR Program can be reached at (732) 542-0040. At the prompt, choose Option # 8.

Email: TNR@monmouthcountyspca.org

MCSPCA Website: www.monmouthcountyspca.org/services/spay-neuter-clinic/

The City's Mayor and Council has determined that TNR programs are beneficial and have shown many positive public consequences. The City of Long Branch and the MCSPCA have partnered to offer Trap-Neuter-Return services to our residents. TNR is a service specifically targeting the growing feral cat population in a more humane manner. Feral cats are trapped, spayed or neutered, and returned to the community to live in managed colonies. Kittens and stray cats evaluated as "friendly" are put up for adoption by the SPCA. Some of the benefits of Long Branch's TNR program are:

1. It offers a more humane way of dealing with feral cats. Feral cats, in the past would be trapped and euthanized. Trap-Kill has been shown to be a costly, inhumane and ultimately unsuccessful way to address feral cat population issues. TNR works because it is a multi-tiered approach to addressing the issue of feral community cats.
2. Properly organized and run TNR Programs stop the cycle of female feral cats having multiple litters [up to 4 per year] and reduce the overall population of feral cats and over time can achieve a lower stabilized population level of feral cats in a community. Additionally, the cats receive rabies vaccination, get daily food & water, and live a less stressful life with most times far fewer animal control issues or troubles.

3. The TNR program is more cost efficient than traditional government animal control services which require paying shelter and other fees. The cost of the TNR program is shared equally by the City of Long Branch and MCSPCA. Currently, Long Branch funds pay \$37.50 for each TNR spayed or neutered cat.
4. Community Cat Colony Caregivers must register for the TNR program. The TNR program is permissive in that registered TNR managed cat colonies are permitted and allowed; provided the registered colony caregivers follow MCSPCA TNR rules and regulations.
5. By registering to become a TNR colony caregiver, individuals receive the financial benefit of cats being spayed or neutered. By accepting this TNR benefit, cat colony caregivers also willingly agree to obey program regulations and implement reasonable actions to proactively address any neighborly nuisance disputes.
6. Summarizing then, TNR programs have many advantages. TNR means feral cats - male and female are not reproducing, are vaccinated against rabies, are fed and cared for and on the whole generally cause less animal control issues. Using TNR can stabilize a community's feral cat population and over time can reduce them through natural attrition.
7. Additional behavioral benefits of spay/neuter include: neutering male cats means there is far less fighting, spraying musky-smelling urine to mark territory, and less roaming as they tend to stay closer to their home colony. Less roaming leads to fewer interactions with other cats and/or wildlife. Lastly, feral cats are frightened of people. They will not attack unless sick or cornered and unable to run or escape.

If you would like to know more about the City of Long Branch's TNR program, you are encouraged to contact the Monmouth County SPCA via phone at (732) 542-0040 when prompted select # 8, email TNR@monmouthcountyspca.org or visit the MCSPCA website: <https://monmouthcountyspca.org/services/community-cats-tnr-program/>.

If you would like to speak to someone within the City of Long Branch, please call Deb Nagel, Supervisor of the Animal Control Department, at 732-222-1000, ext. 5260.

In addition to the City's full time Animal Control Officer (ACO), Long Branch also has a volunteer animal welfare group that meets frequently to review the TNR program and supports other animal friendly initiatives and ideas.